

**EAST WINDSOR HOUSING AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2011
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairman LaMay. Commissioners Legassie and Percoski were present along with Richard Pippin, our liaison to the Board of Selectman. Chairman Boutin was not present

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

There were no added agenda items

MEETING MINUTES OF:

Regular Meeting – October 17, 2011

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 17, 2011 were reviewed by all commissioners present. A motion was made by Commissioner Percoski, seconded by Commissioner Legassie to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of October 17, 2011 as presented.

Percoski/Legassie

Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Nasuta, apt. 73 questioned the commissioners present as to whether or not we were still planning on distributing Thanksgiving Baskets to the residents and when would the distribution be. The response from the Executive Director was yes we would be distributing the Thanksgiving Baskets to our residents on Tuesday, November 15th. Ms. DiMauro reminded the residents present that if they had signed up with our office for a basket they could not also get a basket from East Windsor Human Services.

Cherie Martyn, apt. 84, took this opportunity to thank the Executive Director Jennifer DiMauro for all of her hard work during the recent power outage crisis. Ms. Martyn stated that Ms. DiMauro had gone way above the call of duty, was here all hours of the day and night and always had an infectious smile on her face. Ms. Martyn went on further to say that she just wanted everyone to know how much Ms. DiMauro's efforts were appreciated.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Check Register – October 13 – November 9, 2011

The Check register for October 13 – November 9, 2011 was reviewed by all Commissioners present and all questions answered. A motion was made by Commissioner Percoski, seconded by Commissioner Legassie to accept the check register of October 13 – November 9, 2011 as presented.

Percoski/Legassie

Unanimous

Bank Reconciliation – October, 2011

The Bank Reconciliation of October, 2011 was reviewed by all commissioners present and any questions answered.

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/RESIDENTS SERVICE COORDINATOR

Storm Alfred caused us to respond on October 30, 2011 by opening up an emergency shelter in the Community Hall. We sheltered between 25 and 35 at night and served an average of 45 each day. Three meals per day were served for seven (7) days, totaling over 800 meals in all. Food was provided through contributions from the tenants own freezers, donations and the Housing Authority. Many residents stepped up to help by cooking, serving, making coffee, taking care of the frail, emptying the trash delivering meals to those still in their apartment and more.

We extend special thanks to the Broad Brook Fire Department for checking on the tenants who refused to come down to the hall. Many tenants use oxygen and needed to connect their tanks into an outlet in the hall.

While trying to accommodate the residents of Park Hill, the Housing Authority became aware that the Journal Inquirer on Monday, October 31st had reported “A shelter for the elderly is located at the Park Hill Elderly and Disabled Housing complex on Windsorville Road, and that a second shelter was at the John F. Kennedy Middle School”. Unfortunately, this misinformation led to dozens of citizens coming to Park Hill, seeking warmth, food and showers, only to go away unhappy because they saw that our hall was filled to capacity with our own rent paying residents. The Housing Authority sheltered one lady from the community as she was on oxygen. She became ill and was transported to the hospital later in the week.

Town officials reported to us regularly during the week, reporting that power would soon be restored. Resident’s hopes were

dashed many times, as they waited patiently, waited some more and still nothing materialized. We were told that Park Hill had been designated a “priority”, but by Sunday while power began being restored all around us, it was realized that we had been forgotten.

On Saturday, November 5th the Town Dept. of Public Works delivered box loads of FEMA MRE’s (meals ready to eat), which were put out for the residents, as the Housing Authority resources beginning to be depleted. Two private citizens, Charles and Michael Boice, stepped up to help and donated over 50 grinders for the residents. We extend our thanks and appreciation to them for their kindness and generosity.

On Sunday morning, November 6th, when power still had not been restored, one of our residents drove up the road and spoke to the power crews to inquire about the status of power to the elderly housing complex. The worker remarked that they had not been informed of the close proximity of housing for the elderly and its priority status. Thankfully, power was restored to Park Hill within the half hour.

Again I wish to thank all of the volunteers and you all know who you are. I do not want to leave anyone out who assisted, but we could have never done what we did for the residents without your help. I am aware that many area housing authorities evacuated their tenants to families, or left them to their own devices. Some authorities called on their local social service departments to acquire meals on wheels through the State for their tenants, or sent them to area town shelters where available. We are pleased that we were able to shelter, feed and otherwise care for our residents the way that we did. We thank our residents for their patience, support and understanding with all of us as we endured this crisis.

At the time, the Housing Authority is working to clear up the tree debris on the property. Tree work was delayed due to the demand for companies still removing trees from roadways. Maintenance staff have removed some of the branches, but the larger limbs will be done by professionals to ensure safety. The Community Hall had to be closed during the week after the storm, and all resident activities postponed, pending a professional cleaning.

On a more positive note, the heat pump installation and weatherization work, although curtailed by the storm, is underway. These improvements could not come at a better time, as the CT Energy Assistance Program’s funding level have been drastically reduced. Individual awards are as low as \$175, per some single senior households. The savings from the energy initiatives that we are that we are working on will help our residents to reduce their electric expenses.

I am also very pleased to report that the Small Cities grant, submitted through the Town of East Windsor has been awarded to us in

the amount of \$700,000 by the Dept. of Economic and Community Development of the State of Connecticut.

On November 7th, Park Hill received another delivery of free energy efficient GE refrigerators at no cost, from the WRAP program through C.L. & P. At this time, over fifty refrigerators have been replaced at Park Hill. The remainder of the replacements will be done in the Spring of 2012.

RESIDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

October was a busy month at Park Hill. The rainy weather cancelled our scheduled tag sale, but we were able to have it on the following Saturday (October 8th). It was a sunny, brisk day and we had a good amount of customers. The money raised from the sale will benefit our resident recreation fund.

I helped several residents apply for food stamps and the Medicare Savings Program (QMB) this month. There were also numerous requests for the Safe Link cell phone which is a free service provided for qualified residents. My door is always open to people to come in with forms and paperwork they need help completing.

Our "coffee hour" on Tuesday mornings is fun and provides a social gathering for the residents. It coincides with the monthly visit of the VNA nurse who comes in to check health issues. We have had guest presentations from a local drug store and also the CRT people during this time period. The donuts are donated by Dunkin Donuts and coffee is provided.

We had the pleasure of the armed forces cadets on October 22nd. They helped me clean the Community Hall closet and organize the games and seasonal decorations. We put up shelving and made it accessible for the residents. We found many games and other things that were hidden and would be useful for tenant activities.

The Community Store was scheduled for November 7, 2011 but had to be postponed due to the power outage. There are many useful items donated by the residents. I hope to have the store ready for the residents soon so that they can buy Christmas presents. It will be open on Mondays and Fridays from 11 to 1 through the month of November and December. The money raised will be used for our Christmas Party and entertainment.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Nothing from the commission members.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

There were no reports of committees

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

There were no new Policies and Procedures

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Pippin, our liaison from the Board of Selectman, took this opportunity to congratulate the Housing Authority on the awarding of the grant. Mr. Pippin stated that we got the most of any Housing Authority in the State and that we should be very proud of the way Park Hill is run, he referred to it as the "Town of Park Hill"

Commissioner Legassie took this opportunity to compliment Jennifer on all of her hard work and all the time that she put in at Park Hill during the recent power outage crisis. Although there have been a few complaints regarding the fact that no staff member was here 24/7; she felt that Jennifer had gone above and beyond the line of duty, should be commended for everything she did do and wanted the public to know that she did not receive any additional monetary compensation for all the time she spent here during that week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6) Personnel and Litigation

A motion was made by Commissioner Percoski, seconded by Commissioner Legassie to go into Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. to include the Executive Director, Jennifer DiMauro.

Percoski/Legassie

Unanimous

A motion was made by Commissioner Percoski, seconded by Commissioner Legassie to come out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Percoski/Legassie

Unanimous

There was no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Percoski, seconded by Commissioner Legassie to adjourn the regular meeting of the East Windsor Housing Authority at 7:55 p.m.

Percoski/Legassie

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene H. Kelly
Recording Secretary

